

Unemployment Bulletin

Issue 197 December 2024

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The Claimant Count is a measure of the number of people who are unemployed and claiming benefits. From 1996 until the recent introduction of Universal Credit, this was based on the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance. However, since its introduction some unemployment benefit claimants will be claiming Universal Credit instead. **To reflect this change, the Claimant Count has been expanded to include people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance plus those who claim Universal Credit and who are searching for work.**

Cotswolds

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Since 2016 Gloucestershire has been transitioning to full Universal Credit with the process due to be completed in 2025. This means a broader span of claimants will be required to look for work than under Jobseekers Allowance. As more people are brought within the coverage of Universal Credit, the Claimant Count is set to rise. In addition, in May 2024 the DWP rolled out an increase in the administrative earnings threshold (AET) for full work search conditionality. This means a cohort of claimants who are in work but on an income below the AET will now be required to search for work. This change is likely to affect around 180,000 claimants across the country over around 6 months, increasing the Claimant Count over that time. More information about Universal Credit please see the [ONS website](#).

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The Unemployment Bulletin provides a monthly update on unemployment data for Gloucestershire, the South West region and the United Kingdom. It is produced by the Data, Analysis & Insights Team in the County Council's Planning, Performance and Insight function. The data are sourced from the Office for National Statistics via Nomis (www.nomis.co.uk). All data are rounded to the nearest 5 and may not precisely add to the sum of the number of people claiming JSA, and the number of people claiming Universal Credit required to seek work, due to independent rounding.

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PART 1: SUMMARY

The claimant rate in Gloucestershire increased to 2.7% in December 2024. The South West and UK rates remained at 2.8% and 4.1% respectively. Gloucestershire's rate was 0.1% lower than the South West average of 2.8%, and 1.4% lower than the UK average of 4.1%.

The claimant count in Gloucestershire in December 2024 increased by 165 people. The amount of people claiming in December was 1.6% higher than the number in November. This compares to a 0.9% increase in the South West, and a 0.2% increase in the UK.

Produced by:

Data, Analysis & Insights Team
Planning, Performance and Insight
Gloucestershire County Council
January 2025

DISTRICTS AT A GLANCE

At a glance unemployment information grouped by district. Includes:

Claimant count: Total number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit who are not in work in December 2024

Claimant count change on previous month: How much larger/smaller December's claimant count is compared to November expressed as a %

Claimant rate: The % of working age population claiming Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit who are not in work in December 2024

Highest claiming ward: The ward with the highest claim count in that district and the rate

CHELTENHAM BOROUGH

Claimant count:	2,095
Claimant count change on previous month:	2.2%
Claimant rate:	2.8%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Oakley (6.1%)

GLOUCESTER CITY

Claimant count:	3,140
Claimant count change on previous month:	1.3%
Claimant rate:	3.7%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Westgate (8.0%)

COTSWOLD DISTRICT

Claimant count:	985
Claimant count change on previous month:	-0.5%
Claimant rate:	1.9%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Watermoor (3.8%)

STROUD DISTRICT

Claimant count:	1,500
Claimant count change on previous month:	3.1%
Claimant rate:	2.1%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Stroud Slade (4.3%)

FOREST OF DEAN

Claimant count:	1,480
Claimant count change on previous month:	1.0%
Claimant rate:	2.9%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Tidenham (5.1%)

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH

Claimant count:	1,365
Claimant count change on previous month:	2.2%
Claimant rate:	2.4%
Highest claiming ward(s)	Brockworth East (4.0%)

PART 2: UK, SW AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE INDICATORS

The unemployment situation in Gloucestershire compared to the South West and the UK.

Claimant Rate

Figure 1: Claimant Rate for Gloucestershire, the South West and UK over the past year

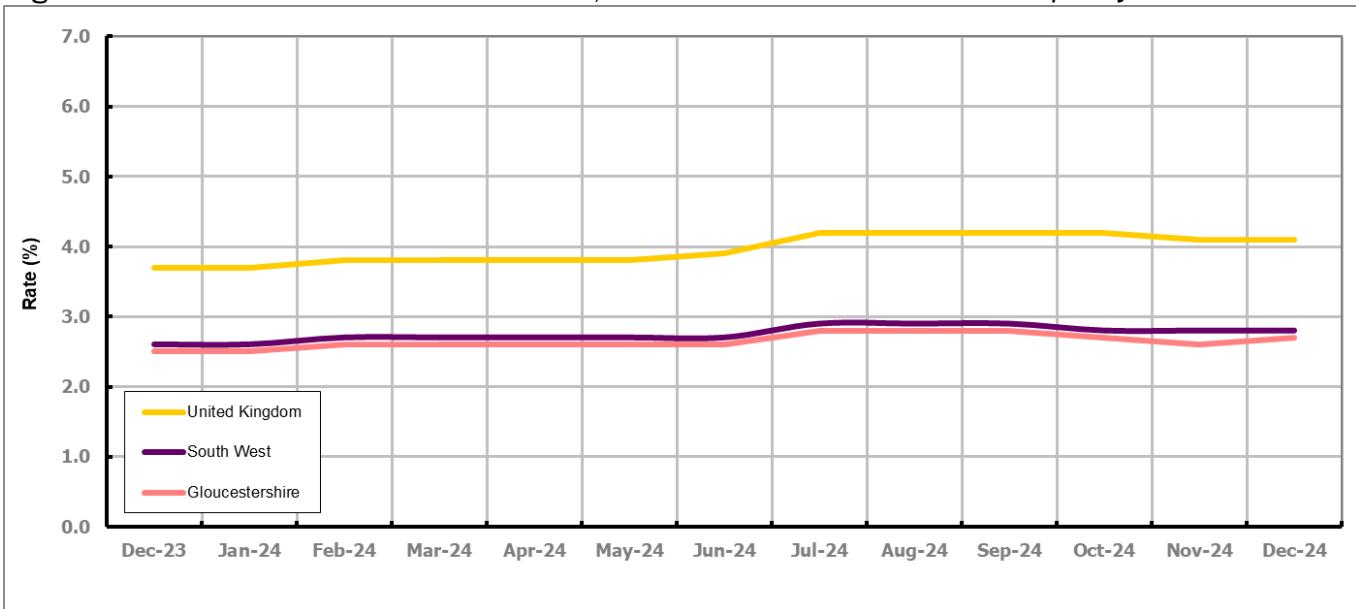


Figure 1 shows the claimant rate for Gloucestershire at 2.7% in December 2024. The Gloucestershire rate has been lower than the South West average since November 2015, with the exception of April and May 2016 and, more recently, November 2023 when it was the same. On average, it has been approximately 1.3% lower than the UK average since the same month of the previous year.

Claimant Count

Table 1: Analysis of UK, South West and Gloucestershire Claimant Counts

Area	Claimant Count in December 2024	% change on November 2024	Consecutive months increasing
UK	1,729,970	0.2%	0
South West	97,345	0.9%	0
Gloucestershire	10,560	1.6%	0

Table 1 shows that in December 2024, the number of claimants in Gloucestershire was 1.6% higher than the number in November 2024.

PART 3: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT ANALYSIS

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 2: Claimant Rate (%) across Gloucestershire - December 2024

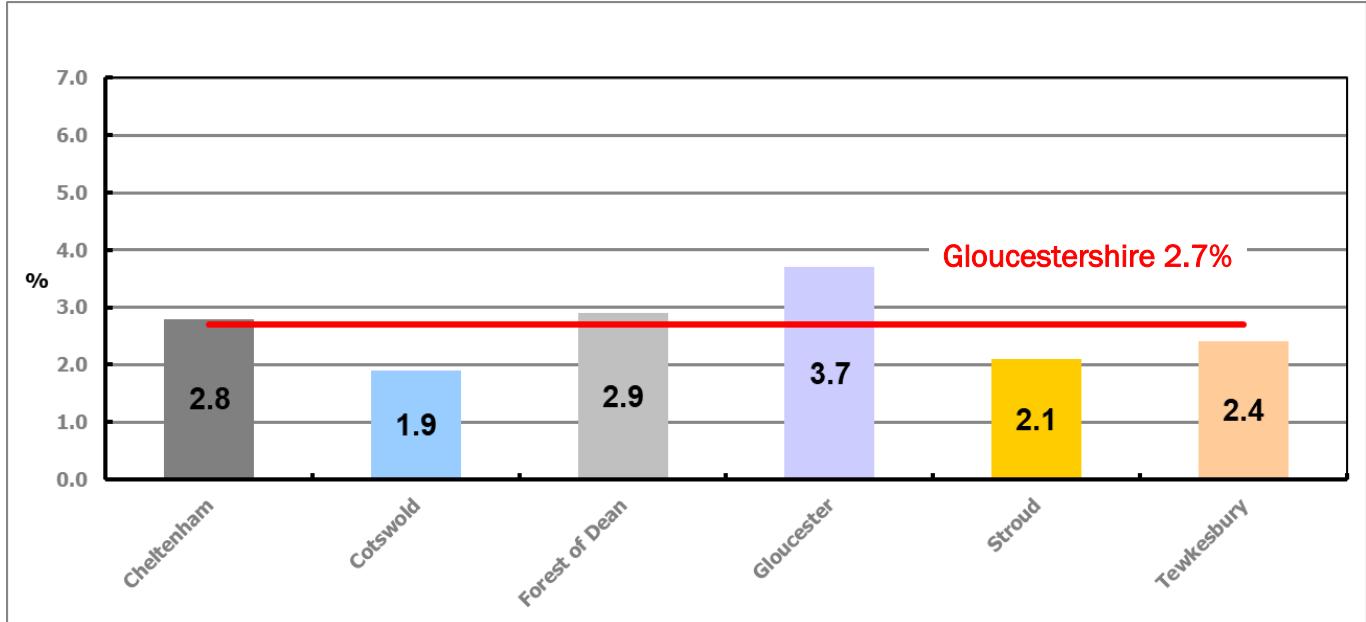


Figure 2 shows the claimant rate for December 2024 in Gloucestershire. Between November and December 2024 the rate increased in Cheltenham and Stroud whilst the rate in all other districts was unchanged.

Table 2: Analysis of Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Total	Dec 24 Number	Dec 24 Rate	Nov 24 Number	Nov 24 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	10,560	2.7	10,395	2.6	165	1.6%	0.1
Cheltenham	2,095	2.8	2,050	2.7	45	2.2%	0.1
Cotswold	985	1.9	990	1.9	-5	-0.5%	0.0
Forest of Dean	1,480	2.9	1,465	2.9	15	1.0%	0.0
Gloucester	3,140	3.7	3,100	3.7	40	1.3%	0.0
Stroud	1,500	2.1	1,455	2.0	45	3.1%	0.1
Tewkesbury	1,365	2.4	1,335	2.4	30	2.2%	0.0

Table 2 shows the change in the claimant count in December compared to November 2024. Cotswold saw a decrease in the number of claimants, whilst all other districts saw an increase.

Table 3: Analysis of Male Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Male	Dec 24 Number	Dec 24 Rate	Nov 24 Number	Nov 24 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	5,660	2.9	5,555	2.9	105	1.9%	0.0
Cheltenham	1,180	3.1	1,155	3.1	25	2.2%	0.0
Cotswold	495	1.9	490	1.9	5	1.0%	0.0
Forest of Dean	785	3.1	770	3.0	15	1.9%	0.1
Gloucester	1,790	4.2	1,765	4.2	25	1.4%	0.0
Stroud	730	2.1	700	2.0	30	4.3%	0.1
Tewkesbury	685	2.5	680	2.5	5	0.7%	0.0

Table 3 shows the change in the male claimant count in December compared to November 2024. All districts saw an increase in the number of claimants.

Table 4: Analysis of Female Gloucestershire and District Claimant Counts

Female	Dec 24 Number	Dec 24 Rate	Nov 24 Number	Nov 24 Rate	Monthly change	% monthly change	Monthly change of rate
Gloucestershire	4,900	2.5	4,840	2.4	60	1.2%	0.1
Cheltenham	915	2.4	895	2.4	20	2.2%	0.0
Cotswold	490	1.8	500	1.8	-10	-2.0%	0.0
Forest of Dean	695	2.7	690	2.7	5	0.7%	0.0
Gloucester	1,350	3.2	1,335	3.1	15	1.1%	0.1
Stroud	775	2.1	760	2.1	15	2.0%	0.0
Tewkesbury	680	2.3	655	2.2	25	3.8%	0.1

Table 4 shows the change in the female claimant count in December compared to November 2024. Cotswold saw a decrease in the number of claimants, whilst all other districts saw an increase.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

This section covers the six districts and a comparison of their constituent wards.

4.1 Cheltenham Borough

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 3: Cheltenham Borough claimant rate over the last year

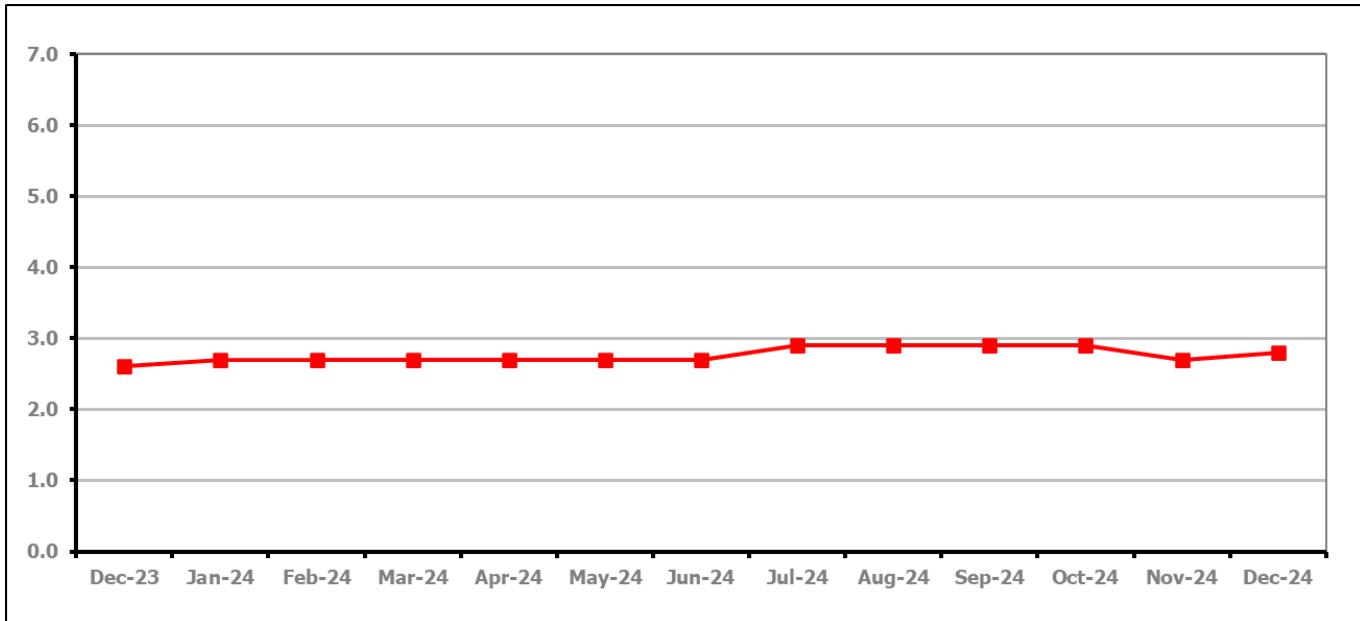


Figure 3 shows the claimant rate in Cheltenham increased to 2.8% in December 2024.

Figure 4: Claimant rates across Cheltenham Borough wards - December 2024

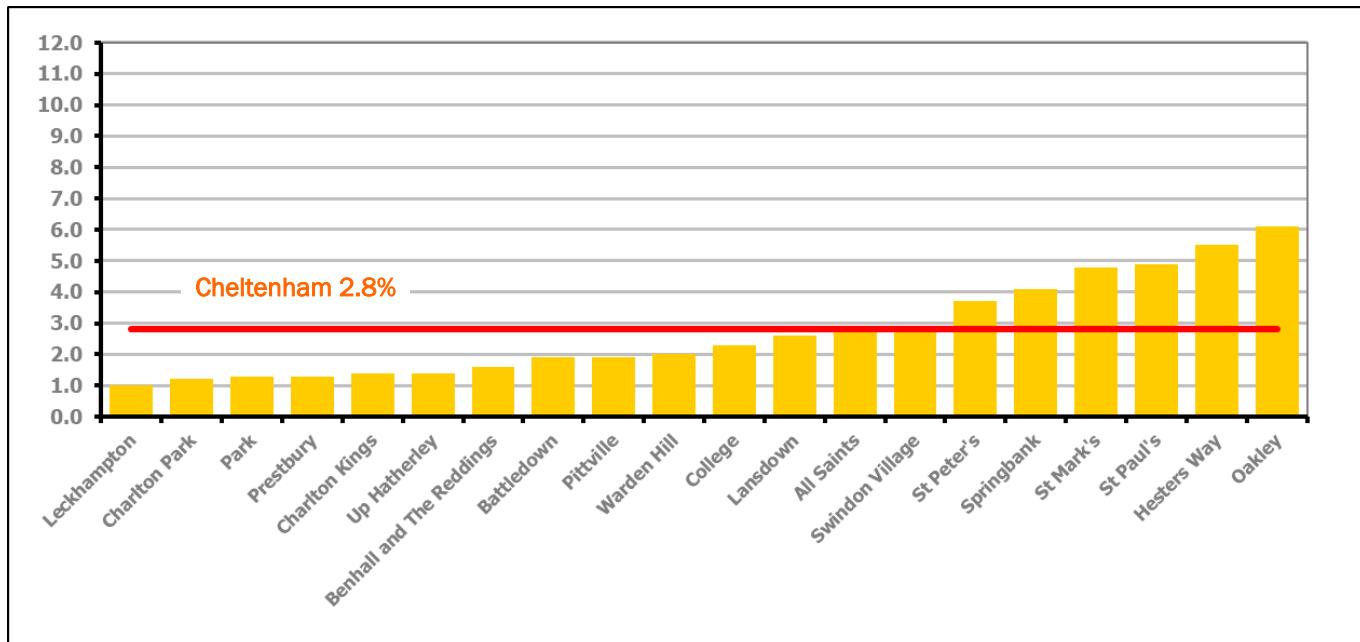


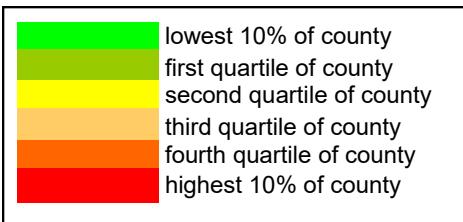
Figure 4 shows the claimant rates for Cheltenham Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the Borough of 2.8%. Seven wards lie above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.1 Cheltenham Borough continued...

Table 5: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cheltenham Borough ward level - December 2024

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cheltenham	Leckhampton	1.0	3
Cheltenham	Charlton Park	1.2	7
Cheltenham	Park	1.3	11
Cheltenham	Prestbury	1.3	11
Cheltenham	Charlton Kings	1.4	19
Cheltenham	Up Hatherley	1.4	19
Cheltenham	Benhall and The Reddings	1.6	37
Cheltenham	Battledown	1.9	49
Cheltenham	Pittville	1.9	49
Cheltenham	Warden Hill	2.0	54
Cheltenham	College	2.3	76
Cheltenham	Lansdown	2.6	92
Cheltenham	All Saints	2.7	100
Cheltenham	Swindon Village	2.9	107
Cheltenham	St Peter's	3.7	118
Cheltenham	Springbank	4.1	123
Cheltenham	St Mark's	4.8	126
Cheltenham	St Paul's	4.9	129
Cheltenham	Hesters Way	5.5	135
Cheltenham	Oakley	6.1	136



* 1 = "best" and 138 = "worst"

Table 5 shows overall claimant rates for Cheltenham Borough wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.2 Cotswold District

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 5: Cotswold District claimant rate over the last year

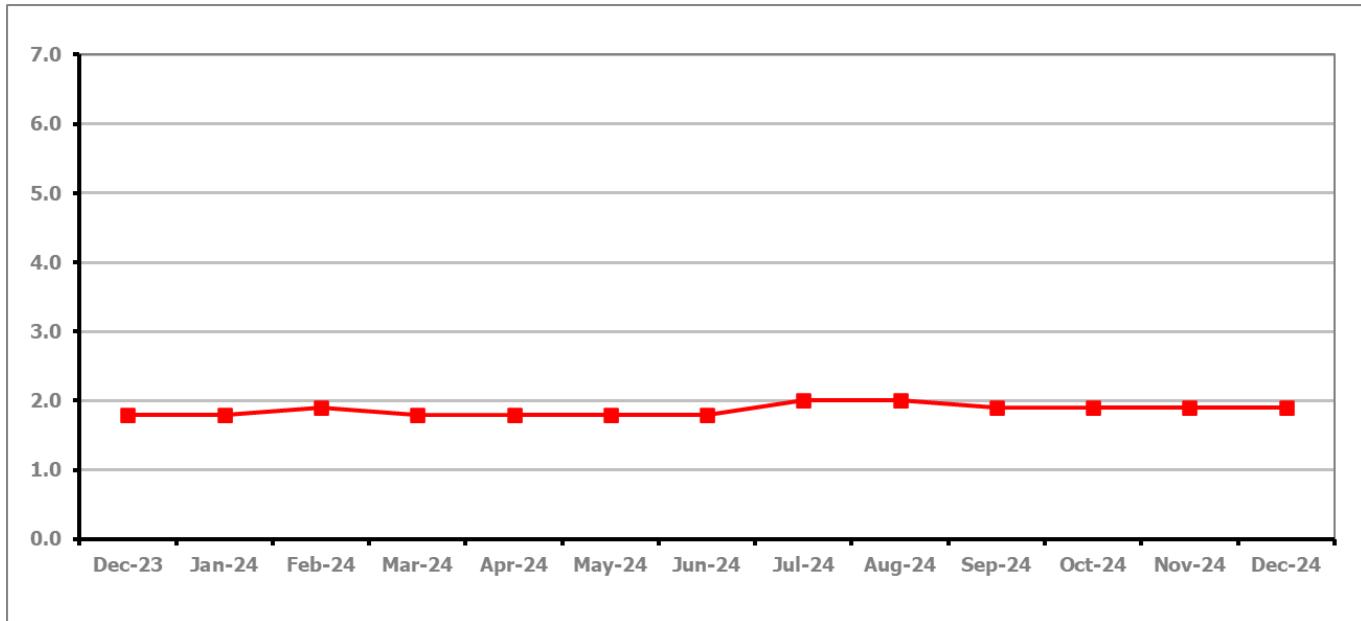


Figure 5 shows the claimant rate in Cotswold District remained at 1.9% in December 2024.

Figure 6: Claimant rates across Cotswold District wards – December 2024

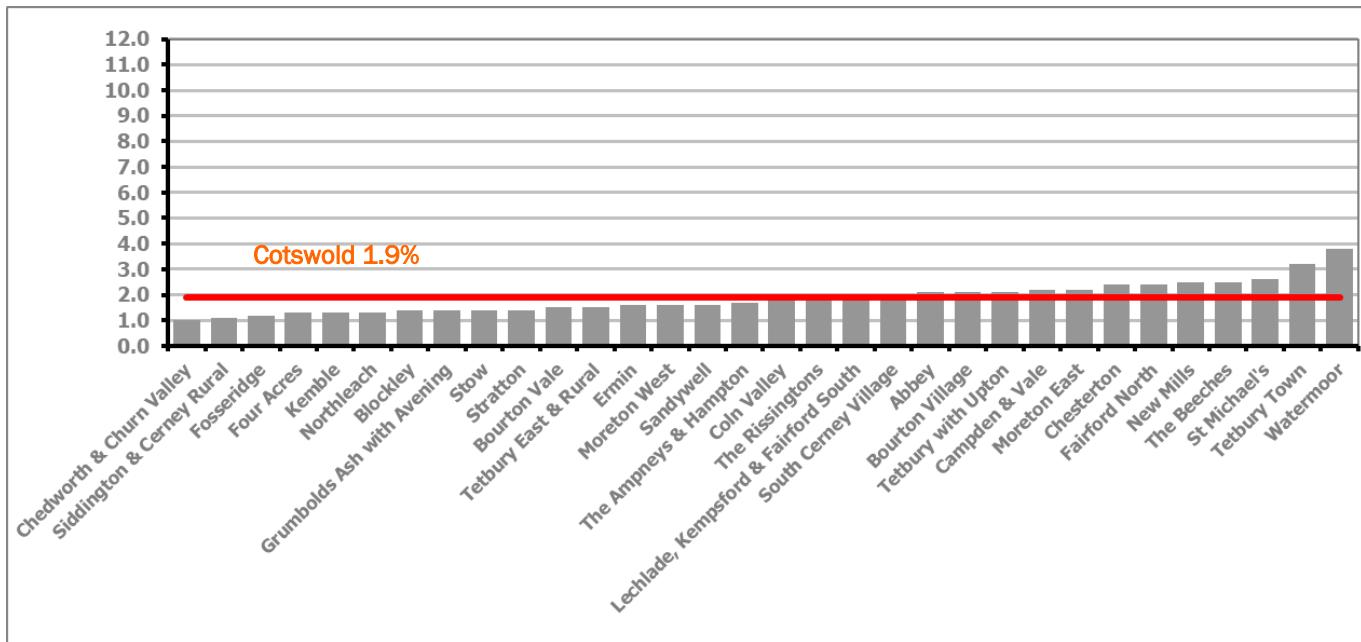
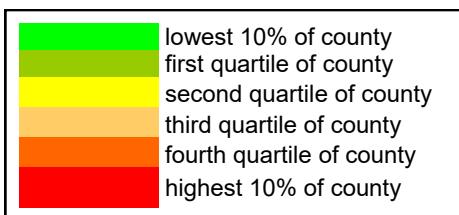


Figure 6 shows the claimant rates for Cotswold District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 1.9%. Fourteen wards lie above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.2 Cotswold District continued...**

Table 6: Analysis of Claimant Count at Cotswold District ward level - December 2024

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Cotswold	Chedworth & Churn Valley	1.0	3
Cotswold	Siddington & Cerney Rural	1.1	5
Cotswold	Fosseridge	1.2	7
Cotswold	Four Acres	1.3	11
Cotswold	Kemble	1.3	11
Cotswold	Northleach	1.3	11
Cotswold	Blockley	1.4	19
Cotswold	Grumbolds Ash with Avening	1.4	19
Cotswold	Stow	1.4	19
Cotswold	Stratton	1.4	19
Cotswold	Bourton Vale	1.5	29
Cotswold	Tetbury East & Rural	1.5	29
Cotswold	Ermin	1.6	37
Cotswold	Moreton West	1.6	37
Cotswold	Sandywell	1.6	37
Cotswold	The Ampneys & Hampton	1.7	44
Cotswold	Coln Valley	1.9	49
Cotswold	The Rissingtons	1.9	49
Cotswold	Lechlade, Kempsford & Fairford South	2.0	54
Cotswold	South Cerney Village	2.0	54
Cotswold	Abbey	2.1	62
Cotswold	Bourton Village	2.1	62
Cotswold	Tetbury with Upton	2.1	62
Cotswold	Campden & Vale	2.2	68
Cotswold	Moreton East	2.2	68
Cotswold	Chesterton	2.4	79
Cotswold	Fairford North	2.4	79
Cotswold	New Mills	2.5	87
Cotswold	The Beeches	2.5	87
Cotswold	St Michael's	2.6	92
Cotswold	Tetbury Town	3.2	114
Cotswold	Watermoor	3.8	119



* 1 = "best" and 138 = "worst"

Table 6 shows overall claimant rates for Cotswold District wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.3 Forest of Dean District

Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 7: Forest of Dean District claimant rate over the last year

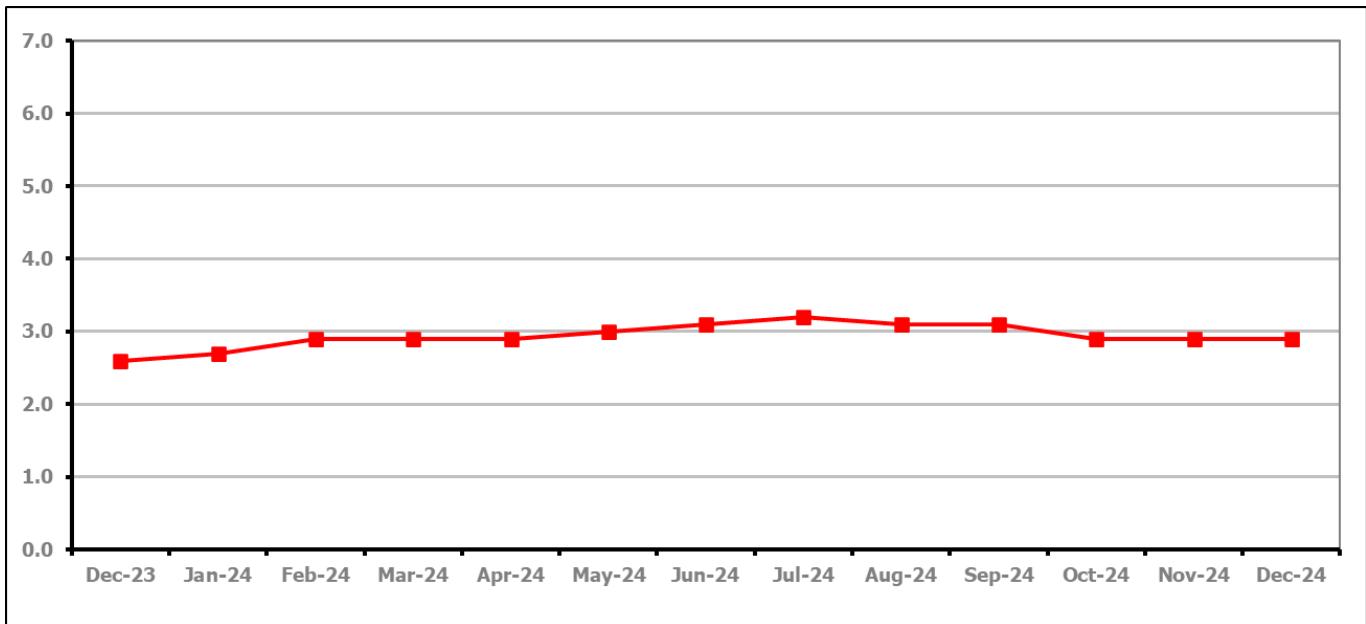


Figure 7 shows the claimant rate in the Forest of Dean remained at 2.9% in December 2024.

Figure 8: Claimant rates across Forest of Dean District wards – December 2024

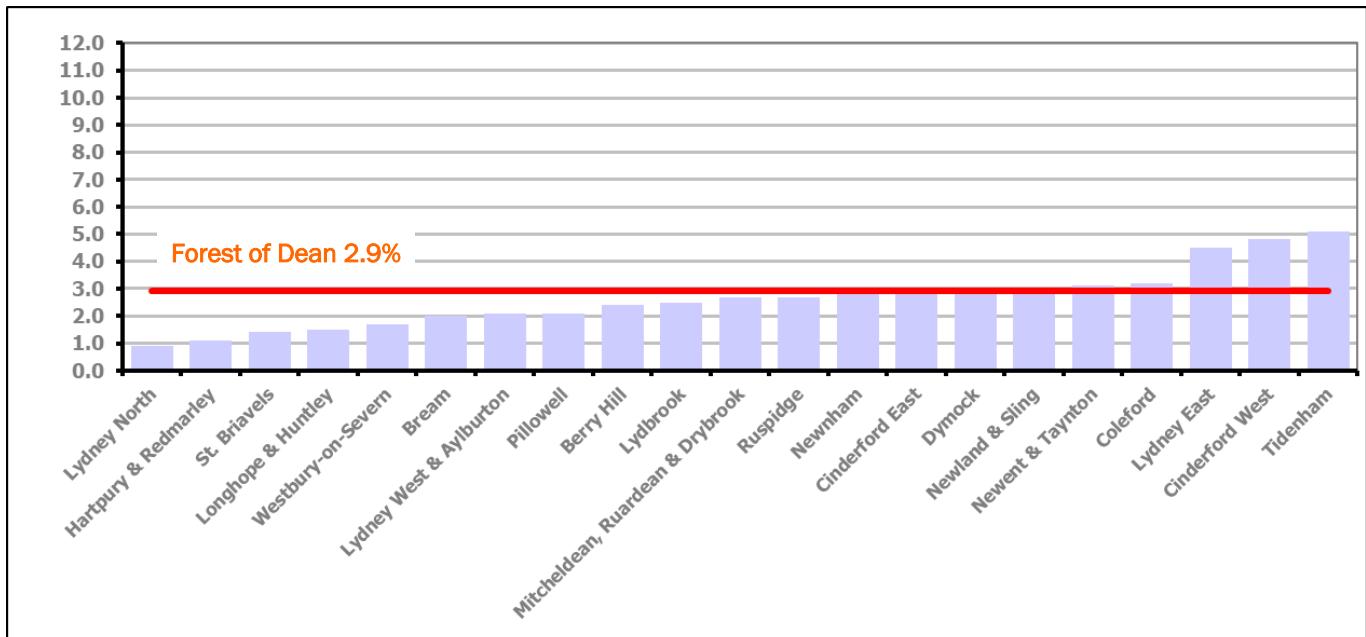


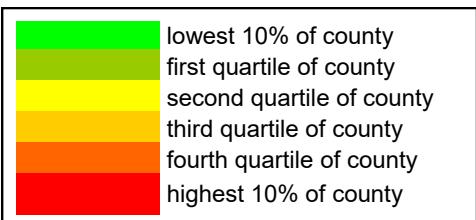
Figure 8 shows the claimant rates for the Forest of Dean District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 2.9%. Six wards lie above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.3 Forest of Dean District continued...

Table 7: Analysis of Claimant Count at Forest of Dean District ward level - December 2024

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Forest	Lydney North	0.9	1
Forest	Hartpury & Redmarley	1.1	5
Forest	St. Briavels	1.4	19
Forest	Longhope & Huntley	1.5	29
Forest	Westbury-on-Severn	1.7	44
Forest	Bream	2.0	54
Forest	Lydney West & Aylburton	2.1	62
Forest	Pillowell	2.1	62
Forest	Berry Hill	2.4	79
Forest	Lydbrook	2.5	87
Forest	Mitcheldean, Ruardean & Drybrook	2.7	100
Forest	Ruspidge	2.7	100
Forest	Newnham	2.8	104
Forest	Cinderford East	2.9	107
Forest	Dymock	2.9	107
Forest	Newland & Sling	3.0	111
Forest	Newent & Taynton	3.1	113
Forest	Coleford	3.2	114
Forest	Lydney East	4.5	125
Forest	Cinderford West	4.8	126
Forest	Tidenham	5.1	130



* 1 = "best" and 138 = "worst"

Table 7 shows overall claimant rates for the Forest of Dean District wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

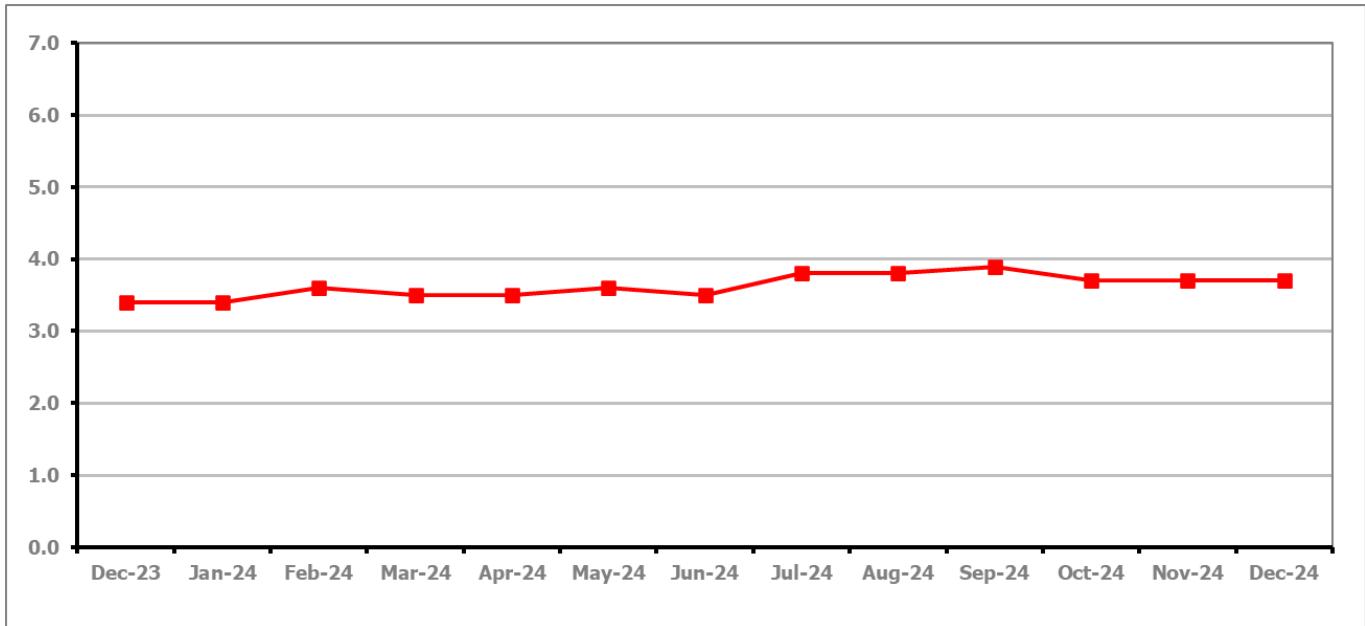
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.4 Gloucester City****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 9: Gloucester City claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 9 shows the claimant rate for Gloucester City remained at 3.7% in December 2024.

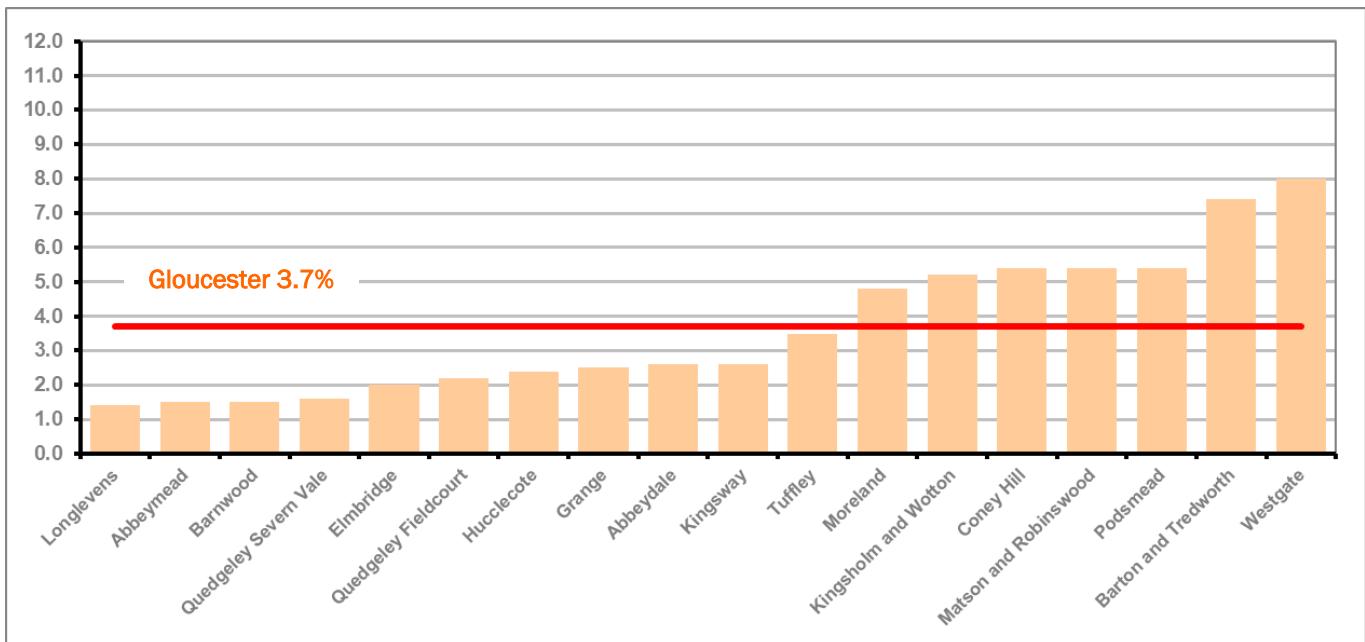
Figure 10: Claimant rates across Gloucester City wards - December 2024

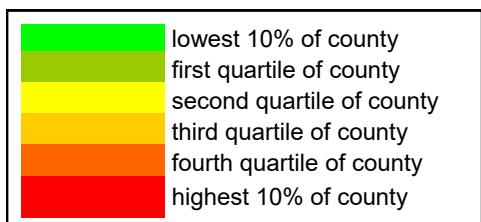
Figure 10 shows the claimant rates for Gloucester City district wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the City of 3.7%. Seven wards lie above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS

4.4 Gloucester City continued...

Table 8: Analysis of Claimant Count at Gloucester City ward level - December 2024

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Gloucester	Longlevens	1.4	19
Gloucester	Abbeymead	1.5	29
Gloucester	Barnwood	1.5	29
Gloucester	Quedgeley Severn Vale	1.6	37
Gloucester	Elmbridge	2.0	54
Gloucester	Quedgeley Fieldcourt	2.2	68
Gloucester	Hucclecote	2.4	79
Gloucester	Grange	2.5	87
Gloucester	Abbeydale	2.6	92
Gloucester	Kingsway	2.6	92
Gloucester	Tuffley	3.5	117
Gloucester	Moreland	4.8	126
Gloucester	Kingsholm and Wotton	5.2	131
Gloucester	Coney Hill	5.4	132
Gloucester	Matson and Robinswood	5.4	132
Gloucester	Podsmead	5.4	132
Gloucester	Barton and Tredworth	7.4	137
Gloucester	Westgate	8.0	138



* 1 = "best" and 138 = "worst"

Table 8 shows overall claimant rates for Gloucester City wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

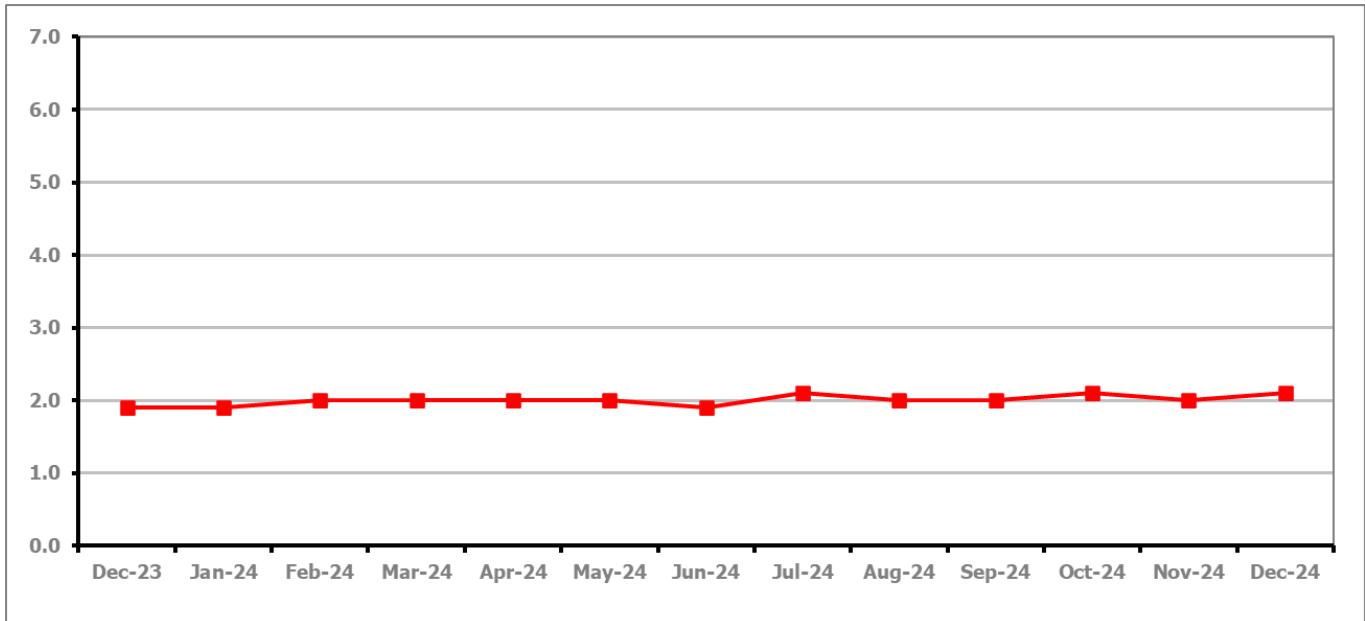
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.5 Stroud District****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 11: Stroud District claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 11 shows the claimant rate for Stroud increased to 2.1% in December 2024.

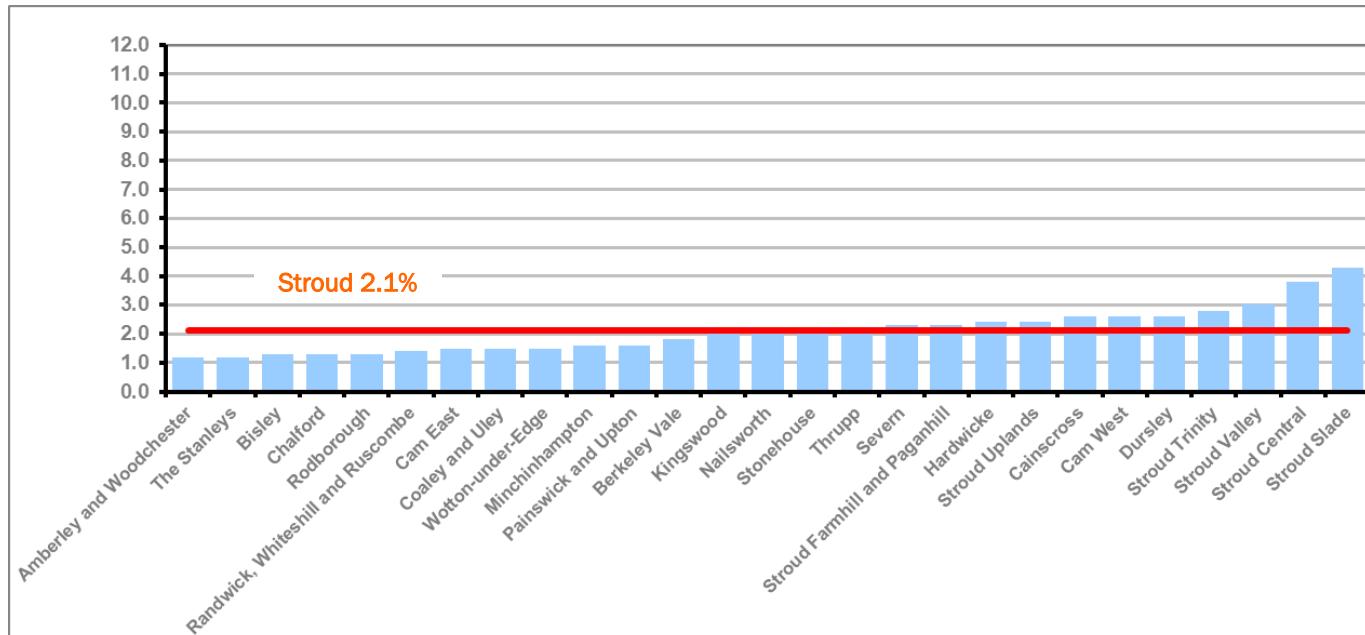
Figure 12: Claimant rates across Stroud District wards - December 2024

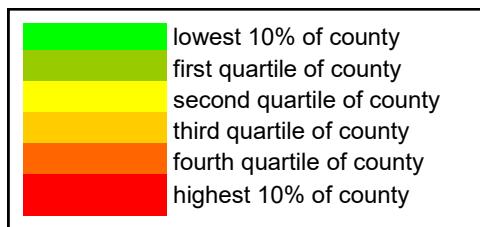
Figure 12 shows the claimant rates in Stroud District wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 2.1%. Fourteen wards are above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY AND DISTRICT ANALYSIS

4.5 Stroud District continued...

Table 9: Analysis of Claimant Count at Stroud District ward level - December 2024

District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Stroud	Amberley and Woodchester	1.2	7
Stroud	The Stanleys	1.2	7
Stroud	Bisley	1.3	11
Stroud	Chalford	1.3	11
Stroud	Rodborough	1.3	11
Stroud	Randwick, Whiteshill and Ruscombe	1.4	19
Stroud	Cam East	1.5	29
Stroud	Coaley and Uley	1.5	29
Stroud	Wotton-under-Edge	1.5	29
Stroud	Minchinhampton	1.6	37
Stroud	Painswick and Upton	1.6	37
Stroud	Berkeley Vale	1.8	48
Stroud	Kingswood	2.1	62
Stroud	Nailsworth	2.2	68
Stroud	Stonehouse	2.2	68
Stroud	Thrupp	2.2	68
Stroud	Severn	2.3	76
Stroud	Stroud Farmhill and Paganhill	2.3	76
Stroud	Hardwicke	2.4	79
Stroud	Stroud Uplands	2.4	79
Stroud	Cainscross	2.6	92
Stroud	Cam West	2.6	92
Stroud	Dursley	2.6	92
Stroud	Stroud Trinity	2.8	104
Stroud	Stroud Valley	3.0	111
Stroud	Stroud Central	3.8	119
Stroud	Stroud Slade	4.3	124



* 1 = "best" and 138 = "worst"

Table 9 shows overall claimant rates for Stroud District wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

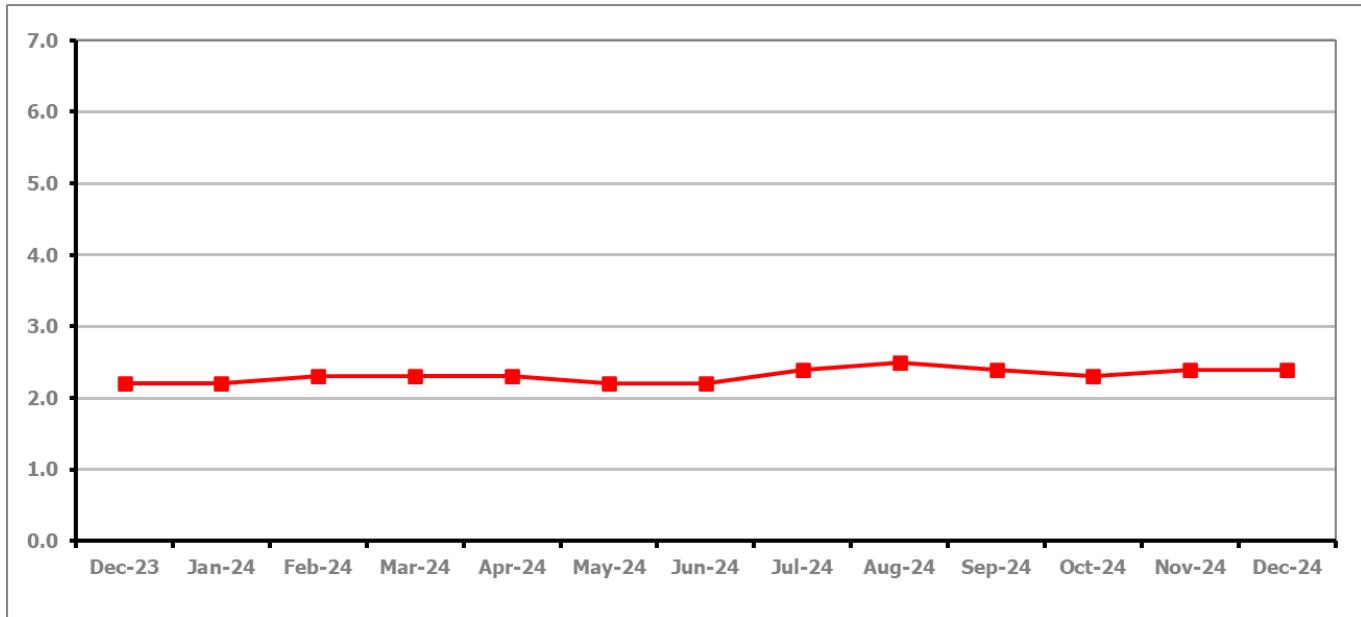
PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY DISTRICT AND WARD ANALYSIS**4.6 Tewkesbury Borough****Claimant Rate and Claimant Count***Figure 13: Tewkesbury Borough claimant rate over the last year*

Figure 13 shows the claimant rate for Tewkesbury Borough remained at 2.4% in December 2024.

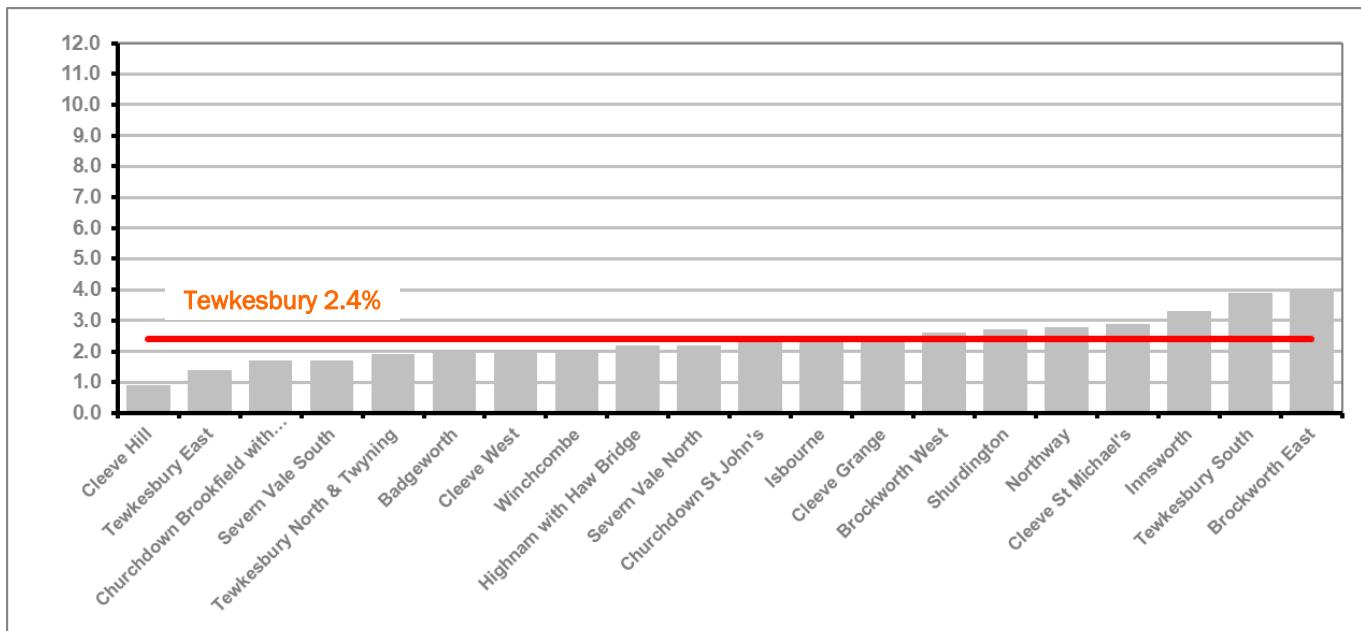
Figure 14: Claimant rates across Tewkesbury Borough wards - December 2024

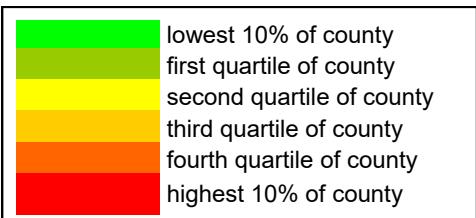
Figure 14 shows the claimant rates in Tewkesbury Borough wards. The red line represents the average claimant rate across the District of 2.4%. Eight wards are above the average.

PART 4: LOCAL AUTHORITY AND DISTRICT ANALYSIS

4.6 Tewkesbury Borough continued...

Table 10: Analysis of Claimant Count at Tewkesbury Borough level - December 2024

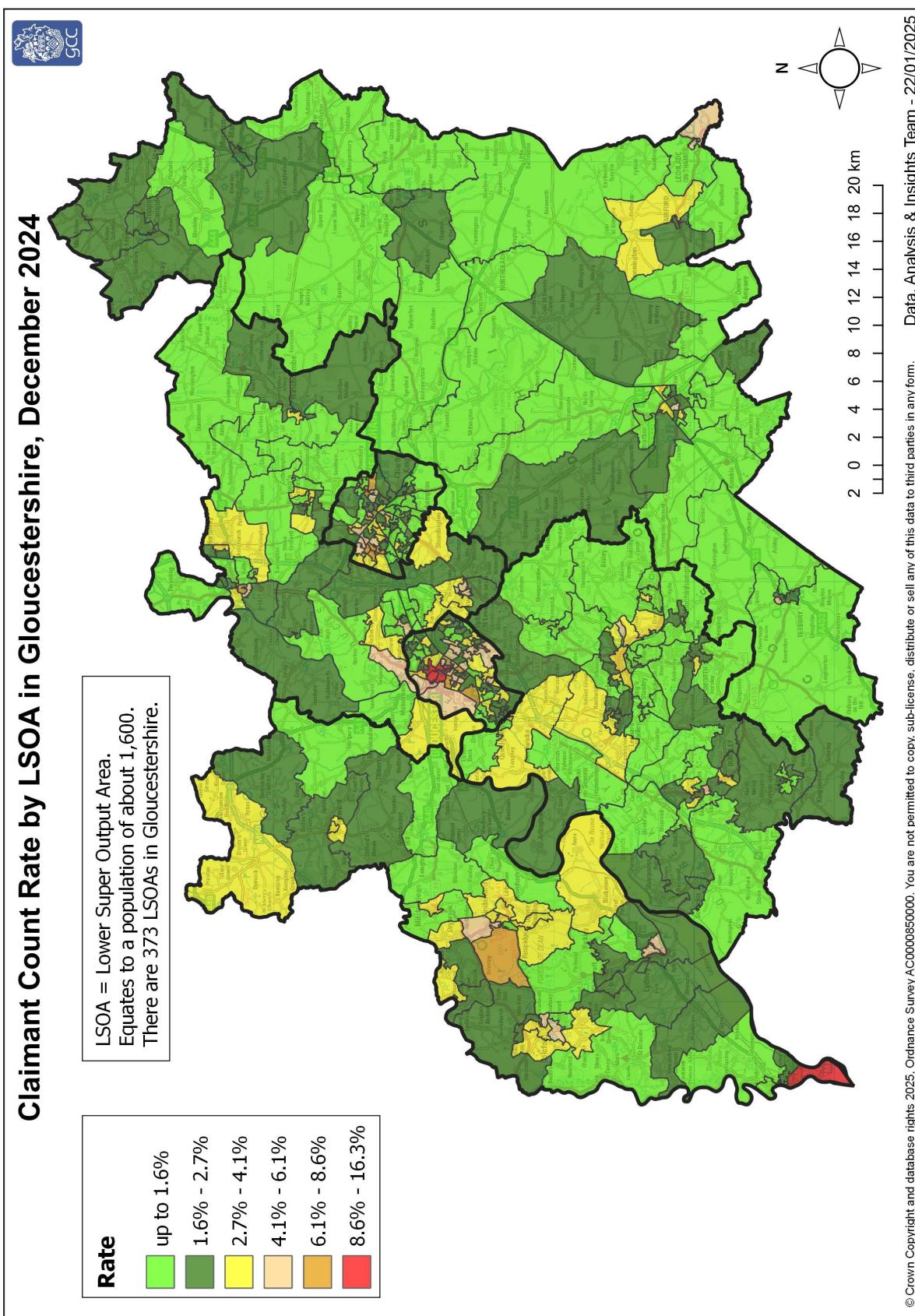
District	Ward	Rate	Rank*
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Hill	0.9	1
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury East	1.4	19
Tewkesbury	Churchdown Brookfield with Hucclecote	1.7	44
Tewkesbury	Severn Vale South	1.7	44
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury North & Twyning	1.9	49
Tewkesbury	Badgeworth	2.0	54
Tewkesbury	Cleeve West	2.0	54
Tewkesbury	Winchcombe	2.0	54
Tewkesbury	Highnam with Haw Bridge	2.2	68
Tewkesbury	Severn Vale North	2.2	68
Tewkesbury	Churchdown St John's	2.4	79
Tewkesbury	Isbourne	2.4	79
Tewkesbury	Cleeve Grange	2.5	87
Tewkesbury	Brockworth West	2.6	92
Tewkesbury	Shurdington	2.7	100
Tewkesbury	Northway	2.8	104
Tewkesbury	Cleeve St Michael's	2.9	107
Tewkesbury	Innsworth	3.3	116
Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury South	3.9	121
Tewkesbury	Brockworth East	4.0	122



* 1 = "best" and 138 = "worst"

Table 10 shows overall claimant rates for Tewkesbury Borough wards and their position relative to all wards in Gloucestershire.

PART 5: MAP SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF CLAIMANT RATE ACROSS GLOUCESTERSHIRE

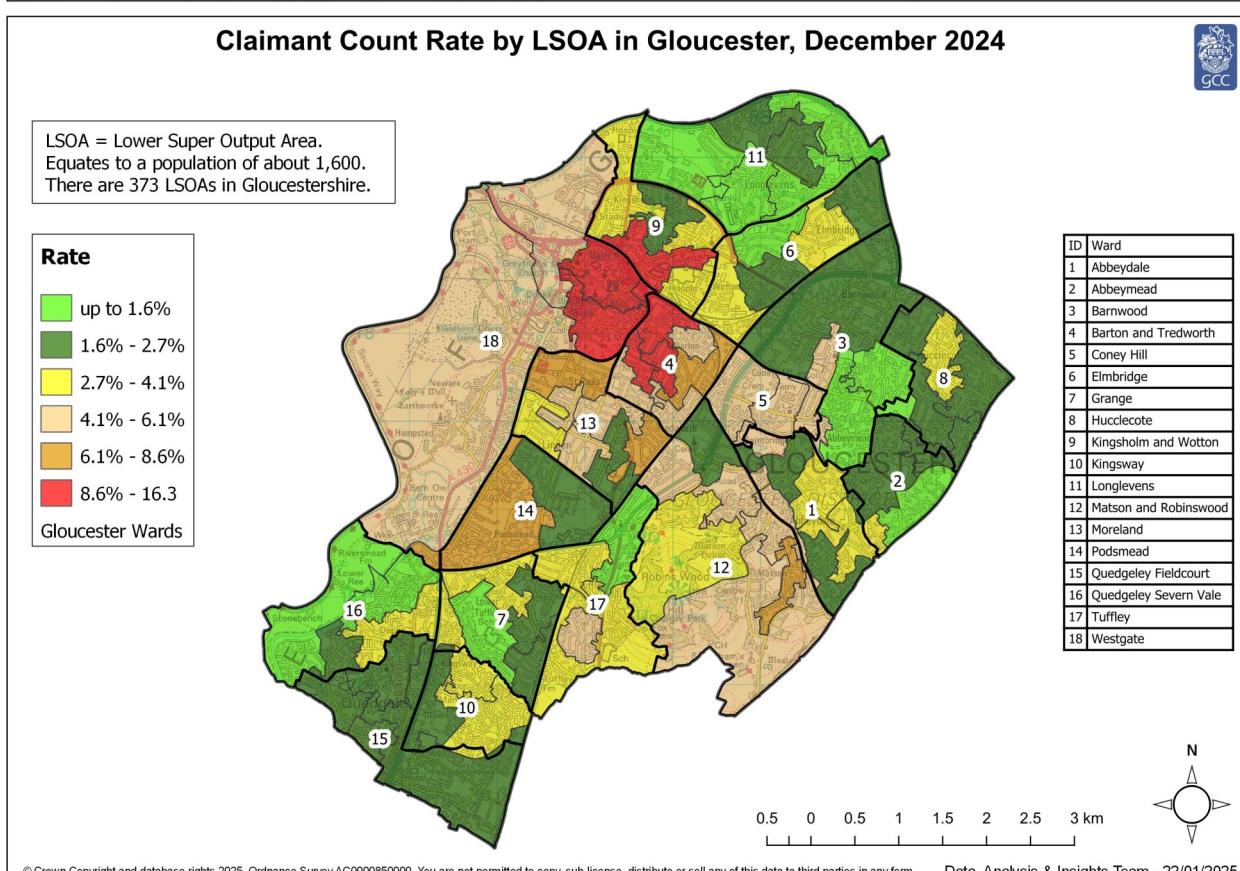
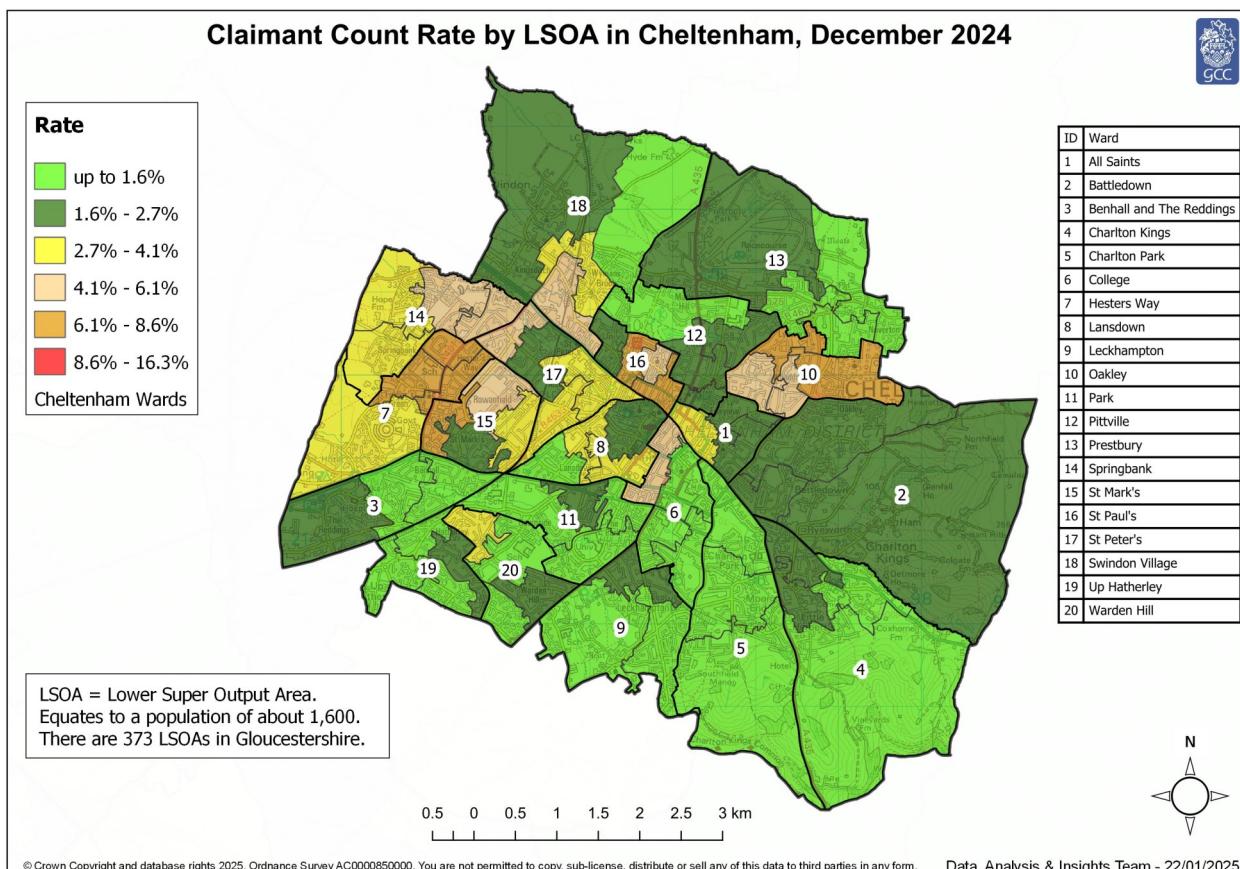


These maps currently show the 2011 LSOA boundaries.

Note: We have made changes to the way in which the rates illustrated on the maps are calculated - this means they are not comparable with those shown in previous bulletins.

Rates calculated using Lower Layer Super Output Area Population Estimates Mid-2020, Office for National Statistics

PART 5: MAP SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF CLAIMANT RATE ACROSS GLOUCESTERSHIRE



These maps currently show the 2011 LSOA boundaries.

Note: We have made changes to the way in which the rates illustrated on the maps are calculated - this means they are not comparable with those shown in previous bulletins.

Rates calculated using Lower Layer Super Output Area Population Estimates Mid-2020, Office for National Statistics

PART 6: YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT(18-24 year olds)

Youth Claimant Rate and Claimant Count

Figure 15: Claimant Count for Gloucestershire over the past year

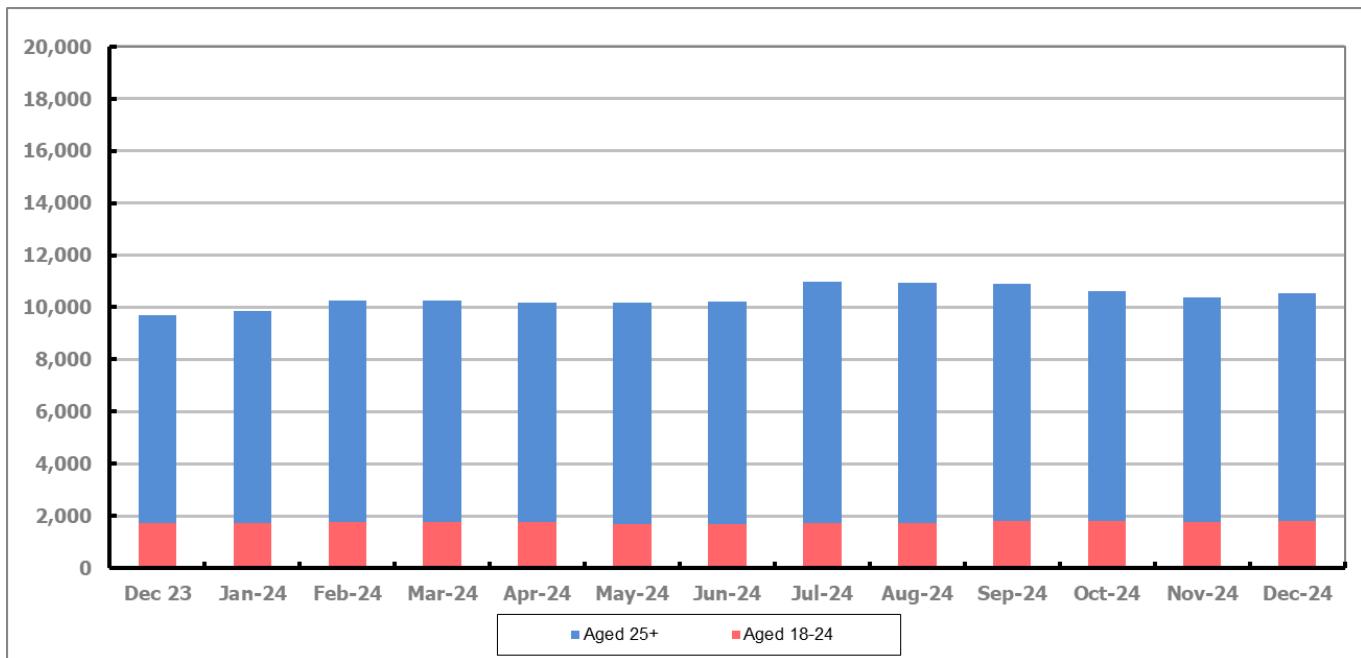


Figure 15 shows that in December 2024, 1,820 people aged 18-24 were claiming Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit who were not in work in Gloucestershire, this represents 17.2% of total working age claimants.

PART 7: YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET) IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Data provided by Gloucestershire Youth Support Team on the situation of young people (16-18) in Gloucestershire who are not in education, employment or formal training.

Gloucestershire Youth Support Team is required to report performance on the Academic Year 12 and 13 (16/17 age) against nationally defined criteria for counting the NEET group to the Department for Education (DfE) on a monthly basis. The NEET group includes young people actively seeking education, employment or training as well as those young people who are either not yet ready or who are unable to access these opportunities because of their personal circumstances. The figures quoted below include young people in both of these categories.

(End of) December 2024

Academic Year 12-13 Summary

	NEET	Cohort	%
Cheltenham	88	2472	3.56%
Cotswold	59	1822	3.24%
Forest	66	1754	3.76%
Gloucester	207	3547	5.84%
Stroud	86	2848	3.02%
Tewkesbury	72	2144	3.36%
Total	578	14587	3.96%

16-18 Age Summary

	NEET	Cohort	%
Cheltenham	112	3230	3.47%
Cotswold	70	2407	2.91%
Forest	82	2362	3.47%
Gloucester	265	4663	5.68%
Stroud	103	3783	2.72%
Tewkesbury	92	2847	3.23%
Total	724	19292	3.75%

16-18 Adjust NEET*	3.95%
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Monthly Change	49	12	0.33%
Previous month	529	14575	3.63%

Monthly Change	33	-571	0.27%
Previous month	691	19863	3.48%

The academic year 12-13 group contains a proportion of young people who turn 18 in the academic year but were 17 on the 31st August the previous academic year so are entitled to learning through RPA (raising participation age).

Please note all figures quoted above are subject to change before the submission date to the DfE which usually happens in the second or third week of the month for the previous month.

If you would like to receive any further information on Gloucestershire's NEET strategy, then please contact lynne.speak@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

(*) Adjustment includes a proportion of young people aged 16-18 whose outcomes are not known to Gloucestershire Youth Support Team.